

TRANSIT SERVICES ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Meeting Summary
Thursday April 14, 2016

PRESENT: Mike Warner, Charlotte
Chris Maloy, Charlotte
Joshua Niday, Charlotte
D. Evans, Charlotte
Daniel MacRae, Charlotte
Walter Horstman, Matthews
Kalan Pegg, Van Pool
Lou Raymond, Cornelius
Christine Bryant, Huntersville
Terry Lansdell, Charlotte
Greggory Hardee, Charlotte
Scott Jernigan, Charlotte

STAFF: Wanda Braswell, Duretta Weicken, Larry Kopf, Pamela White, Scott Colburn, Olaf Kinard

Meeting Time 4:00-5:30 PM

I. Call to Order and Approval of the March Meeting Summary

Chairman Mr. Michael Warner called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m., The March meeting summary was approved as written.

II. Public Comment on Agenda Items:

There was no one from the public at the meeting to give comment.

III. Chairman's Report

Chairman Michael Warner introduced two new members Mr. Terry Lansdell & Mr. Daniel MacRae. Mr. Warner then reported to the committee about the March 23 MTC public hearing meeting saying that Mr. Kopf sent out comments from the public from that meeting. Mr. Kopf stated it was a typical public hearing meeting where most people who are against it come to the meeting. There is always discussion on service quality and CATS will be checking into some of those things. Mr. Warner encouraged the committee members to re-read Mr. Kopf's email about the comments. Mr. Warner stated because the meeting was long on discussion some of the agenda items were dropped but items reviewed were the LYNX Blue Line Extension platform expansion with eleven stations left to expand and the Red Line Transit Study is still in the plan but have issues with the use of the existing rail lines.

Ms. Bryant asked if the outer towns like Huntersville with their recent change in Mayors have been in discussions about the Red line. Mr. Kopf stated yes the outer towns have been in discussions and are all in favor of keeping the Red Line as a viable project. However the Red Line has not qualified for Federal Funding. So in the interim CATS is looking at starting a Premium Bus service that would utilize the managed lanes that are being built and can be used from the North until CATS can get access to the rail corridor.

Mr. Warner continued saying the Silver Line was also an ongoing discussion at MTC the meeting.

Mr. MacRae asked where the Silver Line would go. Mr. Warner stated up Monroe Road to Matthews. Mr. MacRae asked what is the reasoning behind the Silver Line to Matthews. Mr. Kopf explained there is a Transit Systems Corridor Plan that calls for Rapid Transit in various corridors and CATS is working towards that plan incrementally.

IV. Action Item:

A. Proposed Fare Structure

Mr. Warner moved on to the Action Item to discuss and decide what option TSAC will recommend to MTC on the Fare Structure. Mr. Warner called on Olaf Kinard to present the three fare structure options.

Mr. Kinard reviewed Option 1 saying it has no fare increase, reduces the sales discount for the ETC's from 20 to 10%, and changes the pricing on the ten ride pass. It will

eliminate the 10 ride passes and replace it with fourteen rides for the weekly pass price and will add unlimited rides.

Mr. Horstman asked if the focused enforcement and new fareboxes will only be in option 1. Mr. Kinard stated it will be in all three options. Option 1 has minimal effect on low income & fixed income groups.

Option 2 is to increase to a ten cent base fare, reduce the ETC discount from 20% to 10% and Price the 14 rides verses the 10 ride passes with unlimited ride feature.

Mr. Horstman stated the weekly pass would go up but the monthly pass stays at \$88 so if you can afford it the monthly would be the way to go. And you will have people buying one and not the other pass. Mr. Kopf stated the difference is you have committed riders with the monthly pass. And getting that commitment is good for CATS.

Mr. MacRae asked if the weekly pass is only for sale at the light rail stations. Mr. Kinard stated the passes are available at light rail, transit center and other locations across the city such as Harris Teeter and Food Lion. Mr. MacRae asked if the weekly pass sales are the number one pass that sells. Mr. Kinard stated it is the number one seller.

Mr. Jernigan stated most people cannot afford to buy the monthly pass as they are on limited income. Mr. Maloy stated it is easier to buy a weekly pass. Mr. Jernigan stated they are raising the number of rides from 10 to 14 which is the largest percentage exchange. Mr. Kinard stated it is the largest discount at 29% for the unlimited ride.

Mr. Hardee asked when the last increase occurred. Mr. Kinard stated two years ago the fare went up from \$2.00 to \$2.20.

Mr. Maloy asked what percentage of riders' swipe more than ten times in a week. Mr. Kinard stated he has an average of about 14-15 riders.

Mr. Kopf explained that the option is to have the least amount of impact on low income riders and CATS is trying to keep the cash fare down with either no increase or a minimal increase as the increases have the highest impact on low income groups.

Mr. Jernigan asked how much of the increase is related to the Blue Line Extension. Mr. Kinard stated there is no relation to the Blue Line Extension and the increase.

Mr. MacRae asked if this increase is to keep up with inflation and Operating expenses. Mr. Kinard stated yes inflation and some service. Mr. Kopf added there are some new services and also STS has to have some added service due to growth of the ADA requirements.

Mr. MacRae asked if other sources of income such as sales tax have been explored before considering increases. Mr. Kopf stated sales tax is unpredictable we don't have a way to determine that.

Mr. Raymond asked which option has the worse effect on Title Six. Mr. Kinard stated Option 2 has the most effect on Title Six.

Mr. Maloy asked if the estimated revenue is allocated to other areas. Mr. Kinard stated discount amounts represent the maximum revenue in the presentation on maximum revenue potential. Mr. Maloy asked if there is a reason why the ten ride and the weekly passes were looked at as they are in all three options. Mr. Kinard stated those things that had price discounts and those options were with no fare increase. Mr. Maloy stated he noticed some of the ten ride passes don't have an expiration date. Mr. Kinard stated to be cost effective as it would be more expensive to go every ninety days and have more printed.

Mr. MacRae asked if the structure of the passes will change when the system goes to the contactless system. Mr. Kinard stated yes there will be a study and will determine what passes we will have as CATS has too many passes right now.

Mr. Lansdell commended CATS on how well they keep the system and stated the reevaluation of the fare structure is necessary with the Blue Line Extension and the new fare boxes coming onboard. Mr. Lansdell had concerns for when the next fare increase comes and what that may look like.

Option 3 is to increase base fare five cents, reduce ETC from 20% to 10%, Price the weekly pass with 14 rides verses 10 rides and add the unlimited ride feature and reduce the ten ride pass discount of 15%.

Mr. Warner wanted to add to option 1 a scenario with free rides on fixed routes for customers who are eligible for STS for those customers under certain conditions who are able to use a fixed route.

Ms. Evans stated she is on the appeals committee for customers that don't qualify for STS and the problem is getting the riders to the free ride. Ms. Evans stated there are already two other groups that are doing this and she believes all the groups should get together and come up with one plan. Mr. Kopf stated because these customers have to be STS eligible they book their whole trip as they don't have any incentive to only book to a fixed route. By adding the free trip to fixed routes it would give some incentive.

Mr. Lansdell made a motion that TSAC recommends Option one to reduce discounts without raising fares as recommended by CATS staff and to review and approve the suggestion of suspension of all fares to eligible STS riders to a fixed route. The motion was second.

Mr. Pegg asked if there were any way to gage what the next increase may be in two years. Mr. Kinard stated the next increase can be up to twenty-five cents.

Mr. Warner took a vote for the motion. The motion was passed unanimously by all TSAC members.

Mr. Warner stated since time was running short for this meeting he asked the committee to hold all service issues until next month's meeting.

The Meeting Adjourned

Next TSAC MEETING: THURSDAY MAY 12, 2016